



Kent Career Tech Center

REAL LIFE. REAL LEARNING.

a program of **Kent ISD**

To: Joe Lienesch, Kelly Bowers

From: Heather Pratt, Jennifer Woods

Date: September 11, 2023

Subject: FFA Nationals, Board Memo to Joe Lienesch, Kelly Bowers

Our Agriscience for Plants and Animals students are members of the Michigan FFA. This April, several of our students competed in a statewide career development event in Lansing, MI. Four of our students performed at a level high enough to qualify them to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 1-3, 2023.

These students prepared for the statewide event by learning extensive plant identification, how to diagnose plant diseases and insect damage, landscape tool identification, pruning techniques and landscape design and interpretation. Our students earned first and second place as teams, and a gold award status. In addition, these individual students received first, third and fifth and eighth place competing against students from around the State of Michigan.

We are very proud of our students for giving their time and talents while representing KCTC. We respectfully request Board approval for the trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana starting on Wednesday November 1 through 3, 2023 for 4 students and 2 advisors/chaperones.

Thank you,

Heather Pratt Jennifer Woods

Heather Pratt and Jennifer Woods
FFA Advisor
KCTC Agriscience for Plants and Animals Instructors

Student Participants

The students we would like to send to this prestigious event, representing the State of Michigan, are current students who will be registered as substitutions for our program graduates. This is allowable by FFA processes. The replacement team members are returning (2nd year) students who are partially prepared but would need to put in the time to get to competition ready.

Housing and Supervision

Our team will be transported in a Kent ISD van and supervised by Heather Pratt, Jennifer Woods and another chaperone/FFA advisor, yet to be determined. We will be staying in a hotel for 3 nights while the competition and other FFA National events take place.

Our hotel is to be determined.

Itinerary

Tues. Oct. 31st

3:00 pm Depart KCTC
7:30 pm Arrive at hotel

Wed. Nov. 1st

8am-5:00pm Team photos, Team orientation, Event Part 1-team event, business letter, landscape drawing
Team Check-in, Event Part 2-general knowledge exam, landscape estimating, plant/disorder/tool ID, nursery practices, verbal customer assistance, assessment and solution, Coaches report for event review

Thurs. Nov. 2nd

12:00n & 7pm Awards functions

Fri. Nov. 3rd

9am-5:00pm Leadership sessions, trade show, MI FFA All-Chapter photo

Sat. Nov. 4th

11:00am Depart Indianapolis
4:00 pm Arrive at KCTC

Uniforms

Students are required to wear FFA official dress. The requirements for participants have been detailed. KCTC will provide the blue jacket and scarf or tie. Students must provide black pants/skirt, white blouse/button-down shirt, black socks/nylons, and black shoes.

Food

Breakfast is provided each morning at most hotels. Snacks, lunches and dinners will be provided by Kent Career Tech Center/Kent ISD.

Contact Information

While we are in Indianapolis, parents will be able to contact their student via their personal cell phones, Heather Pratt's cell phone (616)890-7885 or Jennifer Woods' cell phone (231)392-1269.

Contest Details <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/nursery-landscape/>

The purpose of the National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event is to promote career interest, encourage proficiency development and recognize excellence in participants of the event. The contest includes all aspects of the industry to produce, market, utilize and maintain landscape plants (woody and herbaceous plants and turf grasses), as well as related production and landscaping products, equipment and services including design.

TEAM INTERACTIVE EVENTS

PHASE 1: TEAM ACTIVITY (50 POINTS PER CONTESTANT PLUS 100 TEAM POINTS) This practicum involves team members working together to accomplish an assignment. It is designed to evaluate individual and group contributions in coordination and cooperation of knowledge, evaluation and decision-making. The team activity has two parts, team preparation and team presentation.

PHASE 2: TEAM SKILLS CHALLENGE (400 TEAM POINTS) This phase is designed to evaluate the team's ability to apply nursery/ landscape knowledge and skills by completing a variety of hands-on and problem solving activities. No equipment will be started during the event. Teams will be given a list of tasks which may be accomplished individually, in pairs or more as determined by the team members according to the skills, experience and preferences of each team member. After completing their tasks, team members may then assist other team members as time allows. The number and type of activities will vary from year to year. General topic areas (not actual tasks) will be communicated in the team orientation packet. Both objective questions and qualitative evaluations may be included in the task scoring. Some examples of activities include the following:

- Determine equipment specifications, demonstrate pre-check operations.
- Demonstrate and/or explain lawn care procedures and equipment operation.
- Demonstrate and/or explain hardscape procedures, e.g., pavers or retaining wall installation, irrigation pipe assembly.
- Demonstrate and/or explain chemical handling procedures, e.g., fertilizer or pesticide equipment calibration and application.
- Demonstrate and/or explain preparing service receipts.
- Demonstrate and/or explain plant material quality assessment.
- Demonstrate and/or explain pruning maintenance.
- Demonstrate and/or explain safety practices.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

PHASE 3: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION

PHASE 4: IDENTIFICATION OF PLANTS, PESTS, DISORDERS, BENEFICIAL INSECTS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

PHASE 5: LANDSCAPE ESTIMATING This practicum is designed to evaluate participant knowledge of and ability in:

- Evaluating a landscape design.
- Reading a landscape drawing.
- Determining materials needed to execute a landscape plan.
- Maintenance estimating and bidding.
- Evaluating factors that affect profitability of a landscape business.

PHASE 6: VERBAL CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE This interpersonal relations practicum is designed to evaluate participant knowledge of and ability in:

- Verbal communication.
- Sales and customer assistance skills.
- Plant materials, plant culture and problems.
- Nursery and landscape supplies and equipment. The participant will assume the role of a business customer service representative (garden center or other related business or an educational agency) responding to an assistance need of the customer or client (the judge).

PHASE 7: WRITTEN CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE (50 POINTS PER CONTESTANT) This interpersonal relations practicum has the same objectives as in Phase 6: Verbal Customer Assistance applied to written communication.

- Written communication
- Sales and customer assistance skills
- Plant material, plant culture and problems
- Nursery and landscape supplies and equipment

PHASE 8: NURSERY PROPAGATION OR POTTING (50 POINTS) This practicum is designed to evaluate participant knowledge of and ability in performing fundamental nursery production practices.

National FFA Estimated Cost

Michigan FFA Foundation pays for the competition registration fees and provides a grant of \$1000 towards expenditures.

3 Hotel Rooms x 4 nights	\$2,400.00	
6 Convention tickets(Expo, Concert, Rodeo)	\$1,050.00	
Daily Food Allowance(3 days x 6 people x \$65/day)	\$1,170.00	
Transportation-ISD pool van (800 miles)	\$ 500.00	
Michigan FFA Foundation grant		-\$1, 000.00
Total	\$3,520.00	

We appreciate your willingness to consider allowing our students the opportunity to experience FFA Nationals.